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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A distributed system, comprising:

a set of nodes that communicate via a network;

a set of node applications distributed among the
nodes;

means for generating a time-stamp record for
10   each of a set of significant events associated with
one or more of the node applications such that the
time-stamp records provides a synchronized time base
across the nodes for the significant events.

15   2.   The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the
means for generating a time-stamp record in one or
more of the nodes include a synchronized clock.

3.   The distributed system of claim 2, wherein one
20   or more of the nodes include means for reading a time
value from the corresponding synchronized clock and
means for writing the time value into a local event
log that holds the corresponding time-stamp records.

25   4.   The distributed system of claim 3, wherein one
or more of the nodes include means for generating an
event code for each significant events associated
with the corresponding node applications.

30   5.   The distributed system of claim 4, wherein one
or more of the nodes include means for writing the

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~~event code into the local event log along with the~~
~~time value.~~

6.   The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the
means for generating a time-stamp record in one or
more of the nodes include a companion node having a
synchronized clock.

7.   The distributed system of claim 6, wherein one
or more of the nodes include means for reading a time
value from the synchronized clock in the companion
node and means for writing the time value into an
event log that holds the corresponding time-stamp
records.

8.   The distributed system of claim 1, further
comprising means for obtaining the time-stamp records
from the event logs via the network and analyzing the
time-stamp records using the synchronized time base.

9.   The distributed system of claim 1, further
comprising means for starting and stopping the
generation of time-stamp records in one or more of
the nodes.

10.   A method of performance monitoring in a
distributed system, comprising the steps of:
       determining a set of significant events
associated with a distributed application in the
distributed system;

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providing each of a set of nodes applications associated with the distributed application with the functionality to generate a time-stamp record when one of the significant events occur;

running an experiment in the distributed application that generates one or more of the significant events;

obtaining the time-stamp records from the node applications and analyzing the time-stamp records.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein each time-stamp record includes an event code associated with the corresponding significant events.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of analyzing the time-stamp records comprises the step of generating a graphical representation of the time-stamp records.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of determining a set of delays in execution of the node applications associated with the generation of the time-stamp records.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of correcting the time-stamp records in response to the delays.